

**Abstract**

Novel non-coding sequences isolated upstream of the human IRS-2 gene are disclosed as markers for the prediction and/or diagnosis of IRS-2 related metabolic disorders or diseases, such as diabetes. The sequences also function as markers in a method and assay for evaluating

- 5 the insulin regulating, i.e. insulin sensitizing or inhibiting properties of drug candidate substances, e.g. a method and assay for high throughput screening. The sequences and/or information derived therefrom can also be used for influencing the expression of the IRS-2 gene, e.g. in the therapy of IRS-2 related metabolic disorders, such as diabetes.

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